Projects under Integrated Wastelands Development Projects

4203. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 85 projects were sanctioned under the Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme in 1993-94;

(b) if so, the number of projects sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the districts where these projects have been selected in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) the name of the monitoring authority; and

(e) who or which agency is implementing these 85 projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Wastelands Development Board was created in July, 1992. Since its inception and upto 31.3.1994, the Board has sanctioned 71 projects. In July, 1992 14 projects were transferred from the erstwhile National Wastelands Development Board in the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Thus on 31.3.1994, the Board was assisting 85 projects under the Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme.

(b) and (c) Nine projects have been sanctioned under Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme in Andhra Pradesh for the districts of Nalgonda, Nellore, Mahaboobnagar (2 projects), Vizanagram, Nizamabad, Prakasam, Vishakhapatnam and Cuddapah.

(d) The implementation of the Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme is monitored at various levels including by the multi-disciplinary team at the district level, the State Governments and the Department of Wastelands Development.

(e) The projects under the Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme have been sanctioned for implementation by District Rural Development Agencies/Zilla Parishads, State Governments, Non-governmental organisations and Corporations.

Grant-in-Aid Scheme for Non-Forest Development Wastelands

4204. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a Grant-in-Aid Scheme for non-Governmental Organisations to obtain 100% grant for sustainable development of non-forest wastelands;

(b) whether it is a fact that Rs. 3.83 crores was given to 356 NGOs;

(c) if so, the details of the recipient NGOs State-wise;

(d) how Government watch over the work done by these NGOs;

(e) whether reports are called from the State Governments; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (COL. RAM SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Wastelands Development Board is implementing the Grant-in-Aid scheme in which financial assistance to develop Non-forest wastelands is given to Non-Government Organisations. The activities that can be taken up under this scheme include nursery raising and plantation of trees, fodder development, soil and moisture conservation, awareness raising, protection etc.

(b) and (c) Porposals received from the Non-Government Organisations are scrutinised in the National Wastelands Board. After this the proposals are sent either to the State Forest Department or the District Rural Development Agency to check on the credibility and capability of the Non-Government Organisation.